

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A hardware setup method comprising:

accessing a server data processing system, by a
client data processing system, via a data processing
system network;

requesting over the data processing system network
an execution of a hardware setup program by the server
data processing system;

receiving, in the client data processing system,
one or more dynamic link modules for a hardware setup
operation; and

modifying the hardware configuration data on the
client data processing system according to instructions
generated by the hardware setup program on the server
data processing system.

2. The hardware setup method of Claim 1, wherein:

if the hardware setup operation required by the
client data processing system exists on an operating
system running on the client data processing system,
the hardware setup program performs the hardware setup
operation by using a service provided by the operating
system.

3. The hardware setup method of Claim 1, wherein:

the hardware setup operation is performed by
changing one or more items of hardware configuration
data on the client data processing system.

4. The hardware setup method of Claim 1, wherein:

2 if the hardware setup operation required by the
3 client data processing system does not exist on an
4 operating system running on a client data processing
5 system, the hardware setup program calls a BIOS program
6 on the client data processing system, and uses the BIOS
7 program to perform the hardware setup operation.

1 5. A hardware setup method comprising:

2 allowing a client data processing system to access
3 a server data processing system via a data processing
4 system network;

5 receiving a request over the data processing
6 system network for an execution of a hardware setup
7 program by the server data processing system;

8 executing the hardware setup program on the server
9 data processing system;

10 sending to the client data processing system one
11 or more dynamic link modules for the hardware setup
12 operation; and

13 modifying the hardware configuration data on the
14 client data processing system according to instructions
15 generated by the hardware setup program on the server
16 data processing system.

1 6. The hardware setup method of Claim 5, wherein:

2 if the hardware setup operation required by the
3 client data processing system exists on an operating
4 system running on a client data processing system, the
5 hardware setup program performs the hardware setup
6 operation by using a service provided by the operating
7 system.

1 7. The hardware setup method of Claim 5, wherein:
2 the hardware setup operation is performed by
3 changing one or more items of hardware configuration
4 data on the client data processing system.

1 8. The hardware setup method of Claim 5, wherein:
2 if the hardware setup operation required by the
3 client data processing system does not exist on an
4 operating system running on a client data processing
5 system, the hardware setup program calls a BIOS program
6 on the client data processing system, and uses the BIOS
7 program to perform the hardware setup operation.

1 9. A hardware setup method comprising:
2 accessing a server data processing system, by a
3 client data processing system, via a data processing
4 system network;
5 requesting over the data processing system network
6 an execution of a hardware setup program by the server
7 data processing system;
8 receiving, in the client data processing system,
9 one or more library files containing libraries used in
10 executing the hardware setup program and/or one or more
11 device driver files containing device drivers used in
12 executing the hardware setup program; and
13 modifying the hardware configuration data on the
14 client data processing system according to instructions
15 generated by the hardware setup program on the server
16 data processing system.

1 10. The hardware setup method of Claim 9, wherein:
2 if the hardware setup operation required by the

3 client data processing system exists on an operating
4 system running on a client data processing system, the
5 hardware setup program performs the hardware setup
6 operation by using a service provided by the operating
7 system.

1 11. The hardware setup method of Claim 9, wherein:
2 the hardware setup operation is performed by
3 changing one or more items of hardware configuration
4 data on the client data processing system.

1 12. The hardware setup method of Claim 9, wherein:
2 if the hardware setup operation required by the
3 client data processing system does not exist on an
4 operating system running on a client data processing
5 system, the hardware setup program calls a BIOS program
6 on the client data processing system, and uses the BIOS
7 program to perform the hardware setup operation.

1 13. A hardware setup method comprising:
2 allowing a client data processing system to access
3 a server data processing system via a data processing
4 system network;
5 receiving a request over the data processing
6 system network for an execution of a hardware setup
7 program by the server data processing system;
8 executing the hardware setup program on the server
9 data processing system;
10 sending to the client data processing system one
11 or more library files containing libraries used in
12 executing the hardware setup program, one or more
13 device driver files containing device drivers used in

14 executing the hardware setup program; and
15 modifying the hardware configuration data on the
16 client data processing system according to instructions
17 generated by the hardware setup program on the server
18 data processing system.

1 14. The hardware setup method of Claim 13, wherein:

2 if the hardware setup operation required by the
3 client data processing system exists on an operating
4 system running on a client data processing system, the
5 hardware setup program performs the hardware setup
6 operation by using a service provided by the operating
7 system.

1 15. The hardware setup method of Claim 13, wherein:

2 the hardware setup operation is performed by
3 changing one or more items of hardware configuration
4 data on the client data processing system.

1 16. The hardware setup method of Claim 13, wherein:

2 if the hardware setup operation required by the
3 client data processing system does not exist on an
4 operating system running on a client data processing
5 system, the hardware setup program calls a BIOS program
6 on the client data processing system, and uses the BIOS
7 program to perform the hardware setup operation.

1 17. A data processing system program product for hardware
2 setup, comprising:

3 instructions for accessing a server data
4 processing system, by a client data processing system,
5 via a data processing system network;

instructions for requesting over the data processing system network an execution of a hardware setup program by the server data processing system; instructions for receiving, in the client data processing system, one or more dynamic link modules for a hardware setup operation; and instructions for modifying the hardware configuration data on the client data processing system according to instructions generated by the hardware setup program on the server data processing system.

18. The data processing system program product of Claim 17, wherein:

if the hardware setup operation required by the client data processing system exists on an operating system running on the client data processing system, the hardware setup program performs the hardware setup operation by using a service provided by the operating system.

19. The data processing system program product of Claim 17, wherein:

the hardware setup operation is performed by changing one or more items of hardware configuration data on the client data processing system.

20. The data processing system program product of Claim 17, wherein:

if the hardware setup operation required by the client data processing system does not exist on an operating system running on a client data processing system, the hardware setup program calls a BIOS program

7 on the client data processing system, and uses the BIOS
8 program to perform the hardware setup operation.

1 21. A data processing system program product for hardware
2 setup, comprising:

3 instructions for allowing a client data processing
4 system to access a server data processing system via a
5 data processing system network;

6 instructions for receiving a request over the data
7 processing system network for an execution of a
8 hardware setup program by the server data processing
9 system;

10 instructions for executing the hardware setup
11 program on the server data processing system;

12 instructions for sending to the client data
13 processing system one or more dynamic link modules for
14 the hardware setup operation; and

15 instructions for modifying the hardware
16 configuration data on the client data processing system
17 according to instructions generated by the hardware
18 setup program on the server data processing system.

1 22. The data processing system program product of Claim 21,
2 wherein:

3 if the hardware setup operation required by the
4 client data processing system exists on an operating
5 system running on a client data processing system, the
6 hardware setup program performs the hardware setup
7 operation by using a service provided by the operating
8 system.

1 23. The data processing system program product of Claim 21,

2 wherein:

3 the hardware setup operation is performed by
4 changing one or more items of hardware configuration
5 data on the client data processing system.

1 24. The data processing system program product of Claim 21,
2 wherein:

3 if the hardware setup operation required by the
4 client data processing system does not exist on an
5 operating system running on a client data processing
6 system, the hardware setup program calls a BIOS program
7 on the client data processing system, and uses the BIOS
8 program to perform the hardware setup operation.

1 25. A hardware setup system comprising:

2 means for accessing a server data processing
3 system, by a client data processing system, via a data
4 processing system network;

5 means for requesting over the data processing
6 system network an execution of a hardware setup program
7 by the server data processing system;

8 means for receiving, in the client data processing
9 system, one or more dynamic link modules for a hardware
10 setup operation; and

11 means for modifying the hardware configuration
12 data on the client data processing system according to
13 instructions generated by the hardware setup program on
14 the server data processing system.

1 26. The hardware setup system of Claim 25, wherein:

2 if the hardware setup operation required by the
3 client data processing system exists on an operating

4 system running on the client data processing system,
5 the hardware setup program performs the hardware setup
6 operation by using a service provided by the operating
7 system.

1 27. The hardware setup system of Claim 25, wherein:
2 the hardware setup operation is performed by
3 changing one or more items of hardware configuration
4 data on the client data processing system.

1 28. The hardware setup system of Claim 25, wherein:
2 if the hardware setup operation required by the
3 client data processing system does not exist on an
4 operating system running on a client data processing
5 system, the hardware setup program calls a BIOS program
6 on the client data processing system, and uses the BIOS
7 program to perform the hardware setup operation.

1 29. A hardware setup system comprising:
2 means for accessing a server data processing
3 system, by a client data processing system, via a data
4 processing system network;

5 means for receiving a request over the data
6 processing system network for an execution of a
7 hardware setup program by the server data processing
8 system;

9 means for fulfilling the request over the data
10 processing system network for the execution of the
11 hardware setup program by the server data processing
12 system;

13 means for sending to the client data processing
14 system one or more dynamic link modules for the

15 hardware setup operation; and
16 means for modifying the hardware configuration
17 data on the client data processing system according to
18 instructions generated by the hardware setup program on
19 the server data processing system.

1 30. The hardware setup system of Claim 29, wherein:

2 if the hardware setup operation required by the
3 client data processing system exists on an operating
4 system running on a client data processing system, the
5 hardware setup program performs the hardware setup
6 operation by using a service provided by the operating
7 system.

1 31. The hardware setup system of Claim 29, wherein:

2 the hardware setup operation is performed by
3 changing one or more items of hardware configuration
4 data on the client data processing system.

1 32. The hardware setup system of Claim 29, wherein:

2 if the hardware setup operation required by the
3 client data processing system does not exist on an
4 operating system running on a client data processing
5 system, the hardware setup program calls a BIOS program
6 on the client data processing system, and uses the BIOS
7 program to perform the hardware setup operation.

1 33. A data processing system, comprising:

2 a CPU, a main memory, an external storage device,
3 and a network connection device, wherein the external
4 storage device is a recording medium containing a data
5 processing system program product; the data processing

6 system program product having instructions for:
7 accessing a server data processing system, by a
8 client data processing system, via a data processing
9 system network;
10 requesting over the data processing system network
11 an execution of a hardware setup program by the server
12 data processing system;
13 receiving, in the client data processing system,
14 one or more dynamic link modules for a hardware setup
15 operation; and
16 modifying the hardware configuration data on the
17 client data processing system according to instructions
18 generated by the hardware setup program on the server
19 data processing system.

34. The data processing system of Claim 33, further
comprising a reader for reading in the recorded contents of
the recording medium.

35. The data processing system according to Claim 33,
wherein said reader is a portable recording medium reader.

36. The data processing system according to Claim 33,
wherein said reader is a network connection device.

37. A data processing system, comprising:
a CPU, a main memory, an external storage device,
and a network connection device, wherein the external
storage device is a recording medium containing a data
processing system program product; the data processing
system program product having instructions for:
allowing a client data processing system to access

8 a server data processing system via a data processing
9 system network;

10 receiving a request over the data processing
11 system network for an execution of a hardware setup
12 program by the server data processing system;

13 executing the hardware setup program on the server
14 data processing system;

15 sending to the client data processing system one
16 or more dynamic link modules for the hardware setup
17 operation; and

18 modifying the hardware configuration data on the
19 client data processing system according to instructions
20 generated by the hardware setup program on the server
21 data processing system.

38. The data processing system of Claim 37, further
comprising a reader for reading in the recorded contents of
the recording medium.

39. The data processing system according to Claim 37,
wherein said reader is a portable recording medium reader.

40. The data processing system according to Claim 37,
wherein said reader is a network connection device.